

Viola and Piano Recital

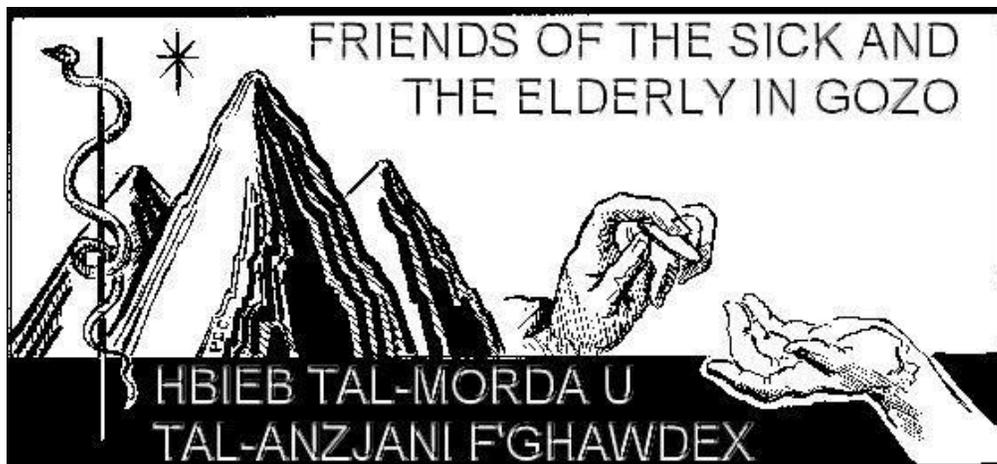
Gozo Ministry Hall: 7th July 7:00pm

Stephanie Pavia - Viola & Saki Matsumoto - Piano

Performing works by Bloch, Brahms and Britten



In aid of:



Suite Hébraïque, per viola e orchestra

Ernest Bloch (1880 – 1959)

Benjamin Britten Lachrymae Op48a

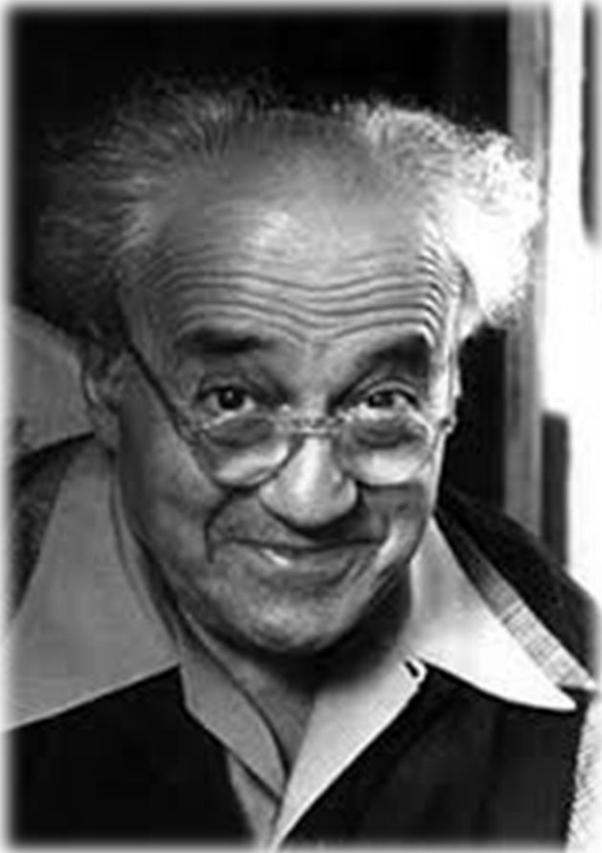
(1913-1976)

Viola Sonata Op. 120 No 1 in F minor

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Programme Notes

Ernest Bloch - Suite Hébraïque (1880-1959)



After World War II, Jewish inspired works became rare. During this period, few composers were attracted by the viola, Bloch was considered a forerunner. He once wrote, 'The viola has always been one of my favorite instruments. It can express the whole range of feelings and passions with intensity and colour that very few people imagine.' Ernest Bloch was a Swiss composer, was born on July 24th in Geneva in a Jewish family. One of his most significant works is the Suite Hébraïque for viola and orchestra or for viola and piano written in March 1951 at Agate Beach, Oregon and dedicated to a Jewish organization, the Covenant Club of Illanois. The Suite Hébraïque is placed chronologically in Bloch's most mature phase of work.

It is written in three movements of clearly tonal Jewish melodies

1. *Rhapsodie*
2. *Processional*
3. *Affirmation*

The *Rhapsody* exudes Bloch's passionate improvisational voice, while the *Processional* presents a vision of the ancient priests majestically ascending to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. In *Affirmation*, Bloch captures the post-Holocaust miracle of the newly reborn State of Israel, affirming the eternal spirit of the Jewish people.

Benjamin Britten - Lachrymae Op48a (1913-1976)

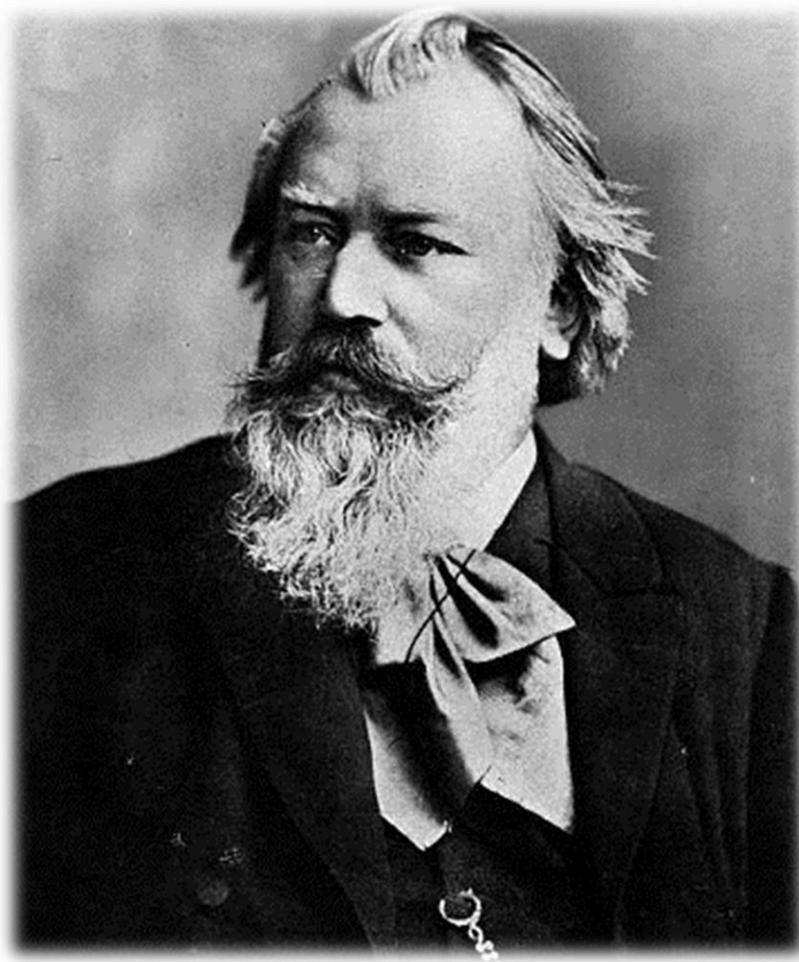


This composition is for viola and piano or for viola and orchestra. This is one of the landmarks in the viola repertoire and Britten is one of the giant composers of the 20th century. It is built on ten variations and each variation is completely unique with fragments of a tune by John Dowland, the Renaissance English composer from the 16th century. This whole piece is based on a song by Dowland that is called *Flow My Tears*.

Britten primarily concerns himself in constructing this set of ten variations. The work begins to quote the song "If my complaints could passion move" in a mood-setting slow introduction, with Dowland's melody in the low part of the accompaniment. However, Dowland's original theme breaks off at the end of its first part, as the harmonies of the song begin to generate Britten's variations. Fragments of the melody are also heard, though Britten's concern with the harmonies leads him to recreate Dowland's sensitivity to harmonic progression in twentieth-century terms. Throughout this piece there is constant preparation for the glorious choral. This choral comes at the end which is the main melody and this is the tune of the song that Dowland composed.

Britten composed this major set of variations for Primrose, "to reward him for coming to the Festival." Primrose played it in the 1950 Festival in a recital in which Britten himself accompanied at the piano.

Johannes Brahms - Viola Sonata Op. 120 No 1 in F minor (1833-1897)



The F minor Viola Sonata, Op. 120, Nos. 1 was one of a pair of works written originally for clarinet and piano by the Romantic composer Johannes Brahms. They were written in 1894 and dedicated to the clarinetist Richard Mühlfeld. The sonatas stem from a period late in Brahms's life where he "discovered" the beauty of the sound and tonal colour of the clarinet. These were the last chamber pieces Brahms wrote before his death and are considered two of the great masterpieces in the clarinet

repertoire. Brahms also transcribed these works for viola with alterations to better suit the instrument.

The structure of the sonata is in four movements:

Allegro appassionato in F minor, in 3/4 time

Andante un poco Adagio in A-flat major, in 2/4 time

Allegretto grazioso in A-flat major, in 3/4 time

Vivace in F major, alla breve

The Performers

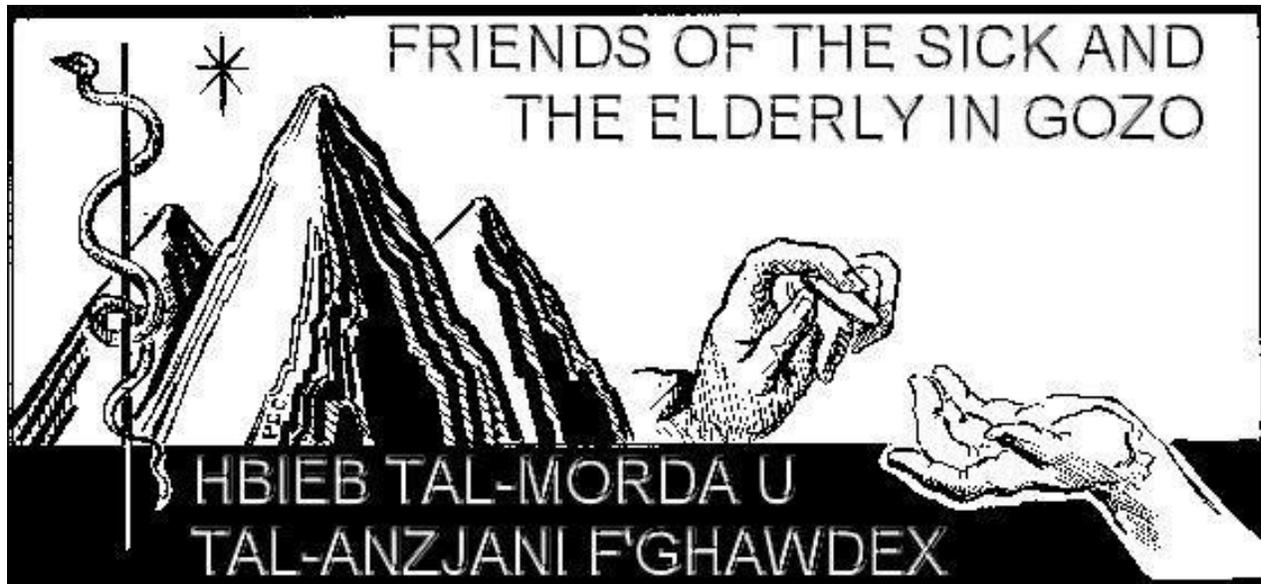


Stephanie Pavia is a Gozitan violist, a student of the renowned Dr Rivka Golani at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London currently undergoing her Masters degree in performance. Between 2008 and 2011 Stephanie was a full-time member with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra. She attended and performed in various masterclasses at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest and at Trinity Laban. She has also performed in Corsica, in UK and in 2014 at the Liszt Ferenc Memorial Museum which is part of the Old Liszt Academy building in Budapest. In 2015 she performed at the International Bartók Seminar in Szombathely, Hungary. She was the winner of the 2008 “Palma tad-Deheb” for cultural achievement. Apart from her musical career, in 2008 Stephanie graduated with a B.Ed.(Hons.) from the University of Malta, after successfully completing a four year degree in Science with specialization in Biology. Her

studies are generously supported by the Janatha Stubbs Foundation, Colin Blythe Fund, Albert Cooper Music Charitable Trust, Trinity Laban Hardship Fund, Gozo Rotary Club, The Henry Wood Accommodation Trust Fund, The Music Students Hostel Trust and Trinity Laban External Courses Fund. The Stephanie has been working with the Junior Trinity Department since 2011 and she is currently a String Time Assistant.



Born in Japan, pianist Saki Matsumoto has been studying in London with Sergio De Simone at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance as a Trinity College London Scholar. Before she came to the UK in 2013, she studied with Izuru Kobayashi at Tokyo College of Music. Saki has performed in master classes and taken lessons both as a soloist and chamber musician from prominent musicians such as Martino Tirimo, Pacal Rogé, Richard Ireland, Christopher Richter, the Carducci Quartet and the Wihan Quartet. Over the past few years she has performed in various venues in London such as Bromley Arts Centre, at St James’ Church Piccadilly, St. Sepulchre the Musicians Church, St. Lawrence Jewry Church and so on. Besides her solo performances, Saki is also an enthusiastic chamber musician and accompanist. She is the winner of the Leonard Smith & Felicity Young Competition 2015 with the violinist Rebecca Windram and especially enjoys performing chamber works for violin and piano duo.



The FSEG is a non-profit philanthropic NGO that, over the past 25 years, has donated numerous items of needed medical and nursing equipment to the Gozo General Hospital and other institutions caring for the sick and elderly. The FSEG also cooks and delivers daily Meals-on-Wheels, averaging 5,400 per year, in co-operation with the Ministry for Gozo.

Since 2009, the FSEG has been lending motorised nursing beds, patient hoists, wheelchairs, walking aids, etc. to elderly and sick persons in the Gozo community to assist their relatives care for them in their own homes and delay, as much as possible, their being condemned to spend the rest of their lives in the alien environment of a hospital ward or nursing home. This way, the FSEG ensures patients' comfort and encourages familial solidarity, while also helping to reduce the number of so-called "social cases" occupying for long periods hospital beds normally intended for acute care. So far, this Equipment Loan project has helped 345 families. The equipment circulates and requests for items average once-a-week. Currently about 170 persons are using the equipment at any one time.

*Special Thanks goes to all our family and friends
who came to support us tonight!*

*We are very grateful
for your generous donations
in aid of the Friends of the Sick and Elderly in
Gozo!*